

Scalable 3D Printed Electronics – From Fully Additive to High Volume Manufacture.

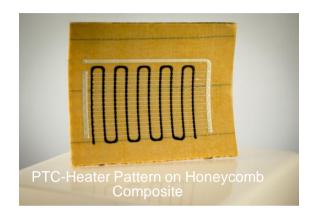
Dr. Martin Hedges – Managing Director

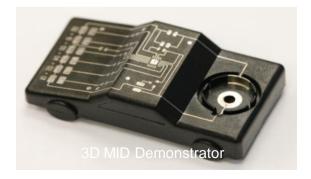
# Agenda

- 1. Company Overview
- 2. Designing a 3D Printed Electronics Process
- 3. Application Examples
- 4. Beyond Simple Circuits
- 5. 3D Print Systems

## Neotech AMT GmbH

- Neotech manufactures system for 3D Printed Electronics.
- Pioneering 3D PE development since 2009.
- First 3D capable system installed in 2010.
- First mass-production capable system of type 45X built 2012. EU/US/CN patent granted 2015.
- 1st commercial sale & install of mass production system in Q3 2013.
- 1<sup>st</sup> commercial mass production started on Neotech systems in Q3 2015.





# Market Need for 3D Printed Electronics

**Design Flexibility** 

Integration of Mechanics-Electronics-Optics

Flexibility of Shape

Minaturisation

New Functionality

#### **Economics**

Reduced Part Count

**Shorter Process Chains** 

Reduced Materials Use

**Increased Reliability** 

#### Environmental

Reduced Materials Mix

Simplified Recycling & Disposal

Reduced Material Quantity

Reduced Parts Tourism



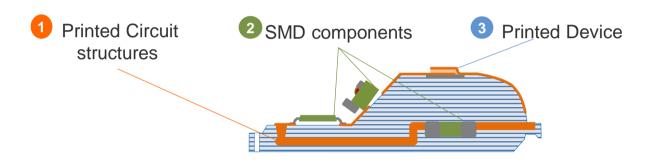
Multi-station Printing at LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG



Tank Filling Sensor Automotive

# Methods for 3D Printed Electronics (3D PE)

How to add electronic functionality to 3D shaped parts?

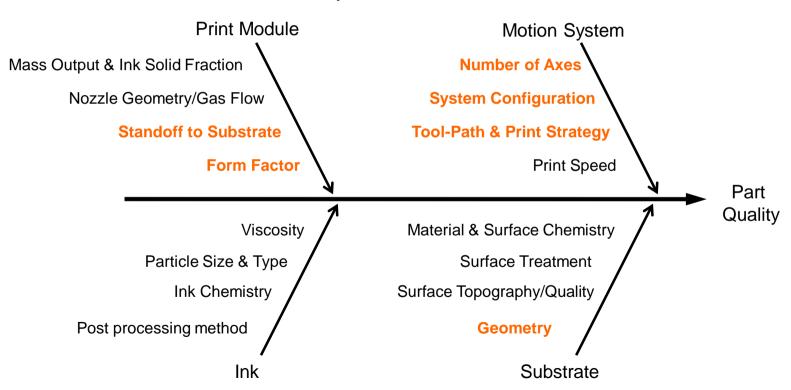


Method 1: Print on conventionally manufactured 3D parts: moulded, machined, composite Development started 2010

Method 2: Print on/in part manufactured layer-by-layer process: FDM, SLS, SLA, etc: Development started 2016

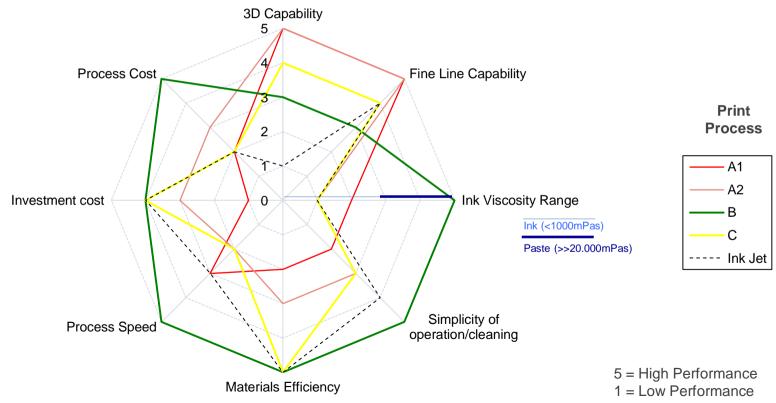
# Enabling a 3D Printing Process

**Key Process Variables** 



### **Print Head Selection**

Each print process has a unique combination of characteristics Process selection driven by application requirements:



#### Motion 3D CAD/CAM

CAD/CAM package that seamlessly interacts with the print platform to enable the printing of highly complex 3D circuits:

Simple process flow, 3+2 indexed to 5 axis simultaneous printing

Optimised cycle times via free definition of the print sequence

Printing path & machine motion simulation

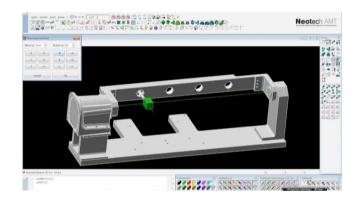
Collision detection

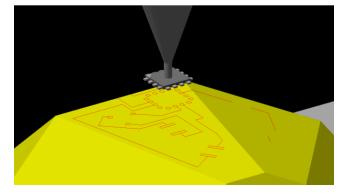
Look ahead function for accurate start/stops of the print process

CAM Check Function – check programmed tool-path vs. machine process limits (point to point time, acceleration and axis speed)

Machine specific ISO Standard G-Code post processor

All process steps (3D Print, 3D Circuit Print, SMD Pick & Place, Pre-/Post-processing) in single machine code





# 5 Axis Print Demonstration



# Example of Dual Print Technolgies



#### NanoJet

Fine Line (ca. 60um) Ag Nano-particle Ink Vidcosity: 20mPas

#### **PiezoJet**

Medium Line (300um) Ag Ink with particles D90 ca. 6um Viscosity ca. 70.000mPas

# **Current Applications**

### Printed Antenna/Curcuits

- Current Process Route: Printing Ag inks on filled PA resins and oven sinter
- Low temperature inks for PC/ABS

3. RF Performance: matches industry standard

 Production Costs: specific antenna designs show cost reduction of compared to current manufacturing techniques



Demonstration Antenna Courtesy: LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG



Multi-station Printing.
Courtesy: LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG

# Switch Paddle Circuit Automotive

Proof of Concept study

Target higher level of integration & cost saving

Circuit printed directly on switch paddle body – remove PCB

Next step replace connector cable with printed circuit/interconnect – cost saving









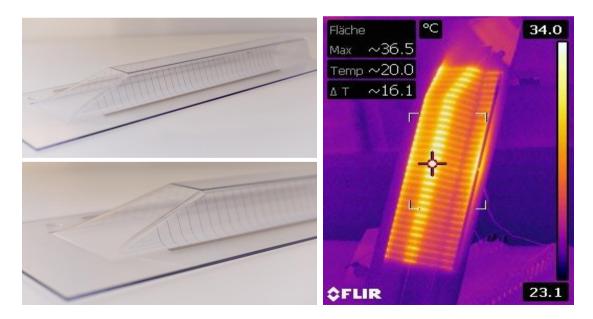
### 3D Heater Patterns on PC

**Automotive Glazing** 

Ag heater circuits printed on large PC part: 750 x 250 x170mm (x-y-z)

Heating 18W (3A/9V) – tune print process to increase heating capacity

Parts to be coated with protective anti-scratch/anti-UV layer

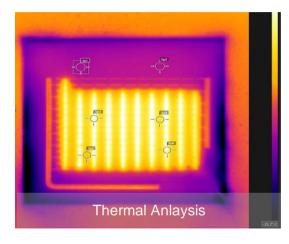


# 3D Heater Patterns on Honeycomb Composite

Aerospace - Cabin Interior







Ag circuit with PTC resistive heater: light weight, safe & integrated into cabin side wall.

Rear side cooled to under -20°C

Heater at 38°C

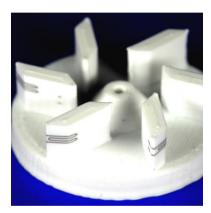
# 3D Printed Sensors



Tank Filling Sensor (Capacitive)



Touch Sensor on moulded PC (Capacitive)



Strain Gauge on 3D Printed PLA (Fraunhofer IFAM)

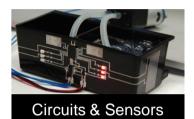
# Beyond Simple Circuits?

Is it possible to add extra functionality to produce more sophisticated 3D Printed Electronics?

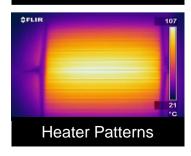
Component	Function	
Conductors	Carry Current	
Antenna	Broadcast/Receive	
Sensors	Input	
Heater	Heat Part	
Resistors	Control Current Flow	
Capacitors	Filter, Charge Storage	
Inductors	Filter,Transform/Transfer	
Diodes	Valve	
Transistors	Amplify, Switch	
Memory	Information Storage	
Emitters	Display Output	
Power Source	Energise Circuit	

# Additional Functionality for 3D Printed Electronics

#### 3D Today



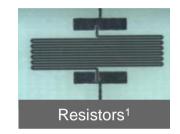


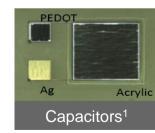


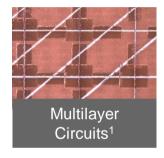
#### Printed in 2 to 2½D Today - 3D Future?

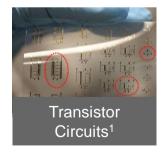


3D Interconnects<sup>2</sup>









<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Courtesy Optomec Inc.

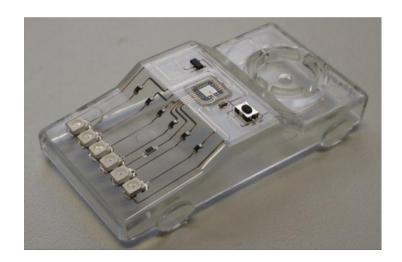
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Courtesy Fraunhofer IKTS

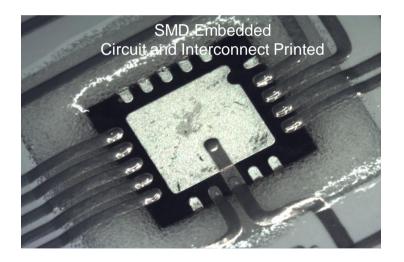
# **Embedding SMDs**

QFN (Quad Flat No-lead) Microcontroller

Contact Pads 230µm

Fixed with 2 Component Epoxy

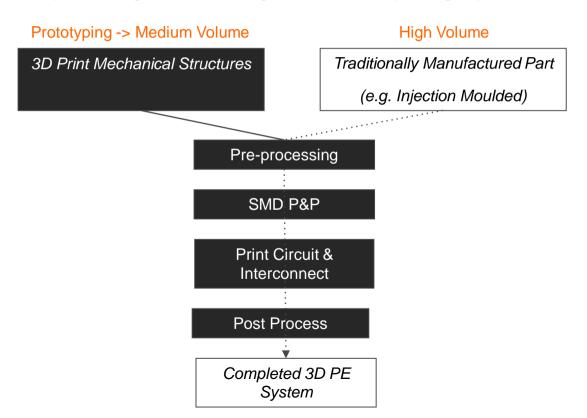






# **Technology Goal**

To provide complete 3D Digital Manufacturing Process Chains spanning all production levels

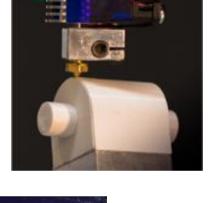


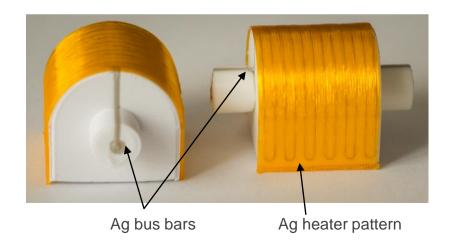
# "Fully Additive" 3D Printed Electronics

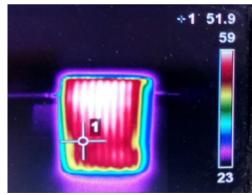
Combine electronics build of structural elements: Fused Deposition Modelling (thermoplastics) & Dispensing (resins)

Single CAD/CAM interface for all processes in 5 axis:

- 1. Structural build
- 2. SMD pick & place
- 3. Circuit Printing and interconnecting SMDs
- 4. Pre- & Post-processing





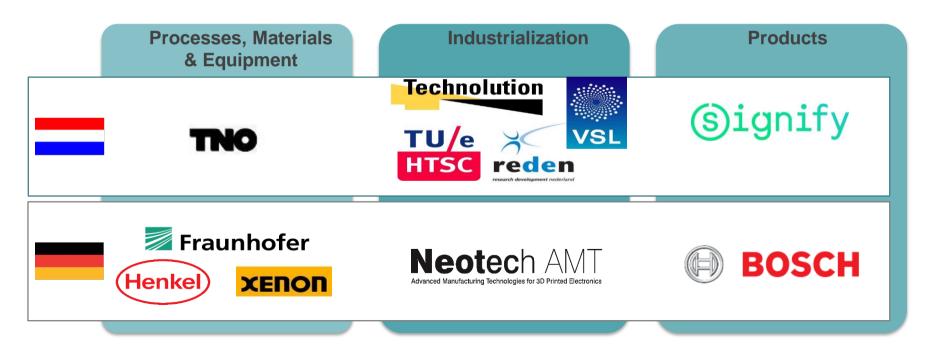


Thermal Image at 60°C

# EU PENTA Project: Hyb-Man

### Hybrid 3D Manufacturing of Smart Systems

- 1. Develop hybrid 3D manufacturing methods to enable flexible first time right production of smart systems
- 2. 3D Printing of polymers in combination with 3D Printed Electronics as core production technologies
- 3. In-line testing and quality monitoring processes will be integrated as part of the complete process chain
- 4. Outcome: improved Additive Manufacturing processes, a hybrid manufacturing production cell and prototypes of integrated electr products (LED luminaires, automotive adaptive sensors)



# EU PENTA Project: Hyb-Man

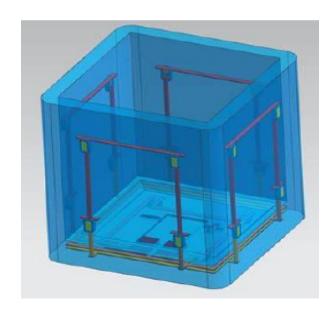
First Product Demonstrator: LED Box

20 LEDs added (5 sets of 4):

4 embedded in base, circuit printed to directly contact.

16 LEDs in walls mounted with conductive adhesive.

Side wall circuits use 5 axis motion





# **EU Manunet Project: AMPECS**



- 1. Will develop fully Additive Manufacturing process for 3D Printing Electronics with Ceramic Substrates
- 2. The German-Spanish consortium will develop 3D printable ceramic materials for creating the structural body and integrate printed electronics into and onto this component.
- 3. End use applications will cover areas where harsh environments exists such as automotive and aerospace as well as in mobile communications.





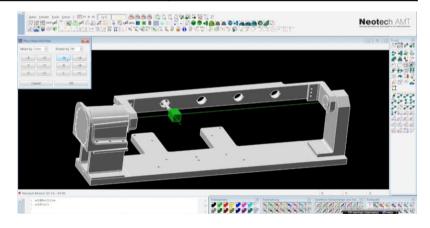
# System Offerings

# **Neotech Products**

5 axis machine tools with 3D capable print, pre- and post-processing tools, software, training & service:

Print Platforms	Print/Functionalising Tools	Pre/Post-Processing
45X – Volume Manufacture	Piezo Jetting	CNC Machining
15X – R&D/Product Development	Aerosol Based	Plasma Cleaning
Custom Platforms	Ink Jetting	Sintering (Light/Laser)
CAD/CAM	Dispensing	UV Curing
Motion 3D	FDM	Adaptive Tool Path Vision System
	SMD Pick & Place	





# Summary

- 1. Designing 3D Printed Electronics process
- 2. Current Application Examples
- 3. Scalable Process Routes
- 4. Modular Systems

# Neotech AMT

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies for 3D Printed Electronics

# Thank you for your attention!

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